



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: *Testimony for Council Resolution to Set Parking Meter Fees in Historic Downtown Ellicott City*

To: *Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer*

Through: *Marsha McLaughlin, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning*

From: *Stephen Lafferty*

Date: *August 20, 2012*

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports adoption of Resolution No. ____ - 2012, which requests a new schedule of fees for parking meter rates on streets and in parking lots in historic downtown Ellicott City. This schedule replaces the one currently in use.

The Administration is implementing a new parking program for this historic downtown where parking is often seen as unavailable. New multi-space parking meters will be installed on Main Street, on Maryland Avenue and for parking lots B, C, D and E. The meters will accept both coins and credit/debit cards. The new fee structure recognizes that on-street parking spaces are premium spaces and should be available for visitors and customers. Parking will continue to be limited to two hours. The price in parking lots will be less, but there is no time limit.

In order to use credit/debit cards for payment, there is a cost to the County for each transaction. The proposed fee of \$1 per hour on the streets and \$.50 per hour in the parking lots has been set in order to accommodate credit/debit card transaction costs. Communities throughout the state, including Annapolis, Towson, Frederick and Rockville have the same \$1 per hour rate we propose. Baltimore City and the University of Maryland – College Park are \$2 per hour.

The change in these meter rates is expected to generate \$170,000 for the balance of this fiscal year and \$219,400 for the coming fiscal year. Revenues will be used to pay expenses associated with the new parking management program. Please contact Stephen Lafferty at 410-313-4302 or Linda Watts at 410-313-2121 if you have any questions.

cc: Jessica Feldmark, Chief of Staff
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator
Paul Johnson, Deputy County Solicitor
Ray Wacks, Budget Administrator
Stanley Milesky, Finance Director